AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 7-29, without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 6 and 30-32, without prejudice.

      This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for detecting nodes in a ring computer network, comprising:

      determining whether a network token has arrived at a <u>first</u> node <u>of a plurality of nodes associated with the ring computer network</u> within a preselected network timeout period;

      if the network token has not arrived within [[a]] <u>the</u> preselected network timeout period, generating an arbitration token;

      receiving the arbitration token at a [[first]] <u>second</u> node;

      determining at the [[first]] <u>second</u> node whether the arbitration token was modified by a higher priority node <u>of the plurality of nodes</u>;

      if the arbitration token was not <u>so</u> modified ~~by a higher priority node~~, transmitting a first discovery marker periodically from the [[first]] <u>second</u> node;

      receiving a packet at a [[second]] <u>third</u> node;

      for each discovery marker in the packet, saving topology information associated with the discovery marker;

      adding a [[second]] <u>third node</u> discovery marker to the packet when the packet does not contain ~~a second~~ <u>the third</u> node discovery marker, wherein the [[second]] <u>third</u> node discovery marker comprises topology information associated with the [[second]] <u>third</u> node; and

      sending the packet to a next node <u>of the plurality of nodes</u> ~~in the network~~.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

      when the packet contains a discovery marker associated with the [[first]] <u>second</u> node, clearing old topology information on the [[second]] <u>third</u> node prior to saving the topology information associated with the discovery marker associated with the [[first]] <u>second</u> node.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

when the packet does contain the first discovery marker, removing the first discovery marker from the packet.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the topology information further comprises:

a connection state, a control master state, and node characteristics.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the discovery marker further comprises:

a packet ring master field;

a control master field; and

the topology information.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the <u>plurality of</u> nodes ~~further~~ comprise blades in a switch.

7-29   (Canceled)

30.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media comprising instructions, which when read and executed by a computer <u>cause the computer to perform a method comprising</u> ~~comprise~~:

detecting arrival of a network token;

if the network token does not arrive within a preselected network timeout period, generating an arbitration token;

receiving the arbitration token at a first node <u>of a plurality of nodes of a ring computer network</u>;

determining at the first node whether the arbitration token was modified by a higher priority node <u>of the plurality of nodes</u>;

if the arbitration token was not <u>so</u> modified ~~by a higher priority node~~, transmitting a first discovery marker periodically from the first node;

receiving a packet at a second node;

for each discovery marker in the packet, saving topology information associated with the discovery marker;

adding a second node discovery marker associated with the second node to the packet when the packet does not contain the second node discovery maker, wherein the second node discovery marker comprises topology information associated with the second node; and

sending the packet to a next node of the plurality of nodes~~in the network~~.

31.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable media of claim 30, wherein the ~~instructions~~ method further ~~comprise~~ comprises:

when the packet contains a discovery marker associated with the first node, clearing old topology information on the second node prior to saving the topology information associated with the discovery marker associated with the first node.

32.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable media of claim 30, wherein the ~~instructions~~ method further ~~comprise~~ comprises:

when the packet does contain the first discovery marker, removing the first discovery marker from the packet.

33.   (Original) The computer-readable media of claim 30, wherein the topology information further comprises: a connection state, a control master, and node characteristics.

34.   (Original) The computer-readable media claim 30, wherein the discovery marker further comprises:

a packet ring master field;

a control master field; and

the topology information.